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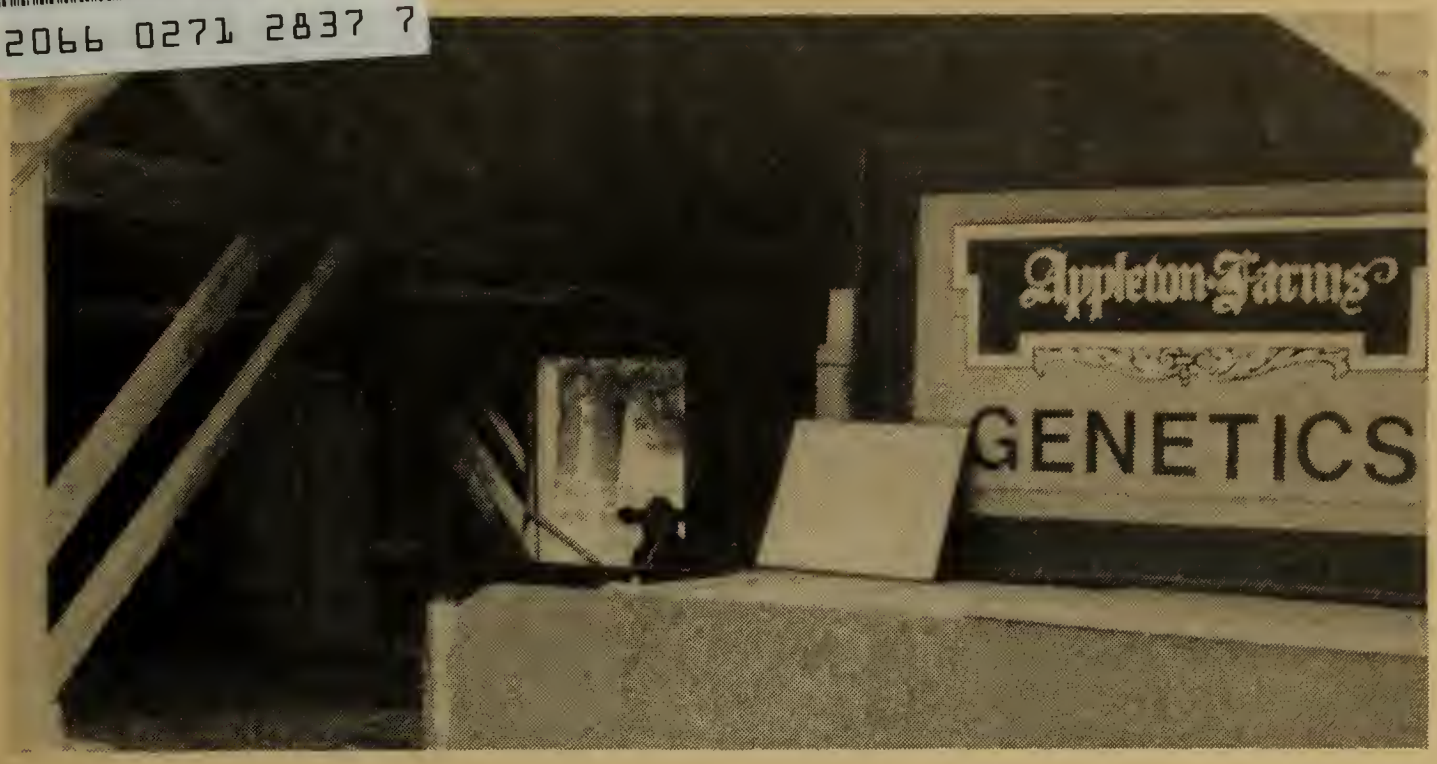

Massachusetts Founding Farms

Cultivators of Our National Heritage

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
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University of Massachusetts
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September 1988
Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture

Michael S. Dukakis
Governor
James S. Hoyte
Secretary of Environmental Affairs
August Schumacher, Jr.
Commissioner of Food and Agriculture

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Foreword

Massachusetts is, of course, the cradle of American history. So much of our country's heritage was forged right here, from the Old North Church to Lexington and Concord and "The Shot Heard 'Round the World."

We take great pride in our history and perhaps nothing in Mass-achusetts has more history than our farms. The Pilgrims began farming not long after landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620, sowing the seeds for what would become a rich tradition, a tradition that still thrives some 360 years later.

Today, Massachusetts counts more than 6,000 farms and they produce nearly $500 million of food and other products each year. Of that number, 39 working farms have been in the same family for 200 years or more. This is truly a remarkable achievement.

The farms are found across the state, from the seaside communities of the North Shore to the scenic mountains of the Berkshires. They include the grande dame of Massachusetts farms - Appleton Farms in Ipswich (which dates to 1638) - to the "baby" of the bunch, 202-year-old Bridgemont Farm in the Hampshire County town of Westhampton.

The 39 farms produce a wide variety of products: milk, vegetables, small fruit, tree fruit, hay, timber, flowers, and 20th-century innovations like cattle embryo transplants.

But perhaps the most important contribution of these farms is continuity. They represent a way of life established long before our country was founded. When a farm is passed on from generation to generation it lends a stability that is all too rare in today's world. At least one of these farms has four generations living on the farm.

Fascinating stories abound in this collection of historic farms. A coin toss decided ownership of The Colchester Farm in Plympton in 1866. The Churchill brothers - Thomas and James - found the farm could not support both their families when they returned from the Civil War. A flip of the coin gave Thomas the farm and sent James and his family West to seek its fortune.

The Shakers of Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield introduced the idea of selling seeds in paper packets. Elsie the Borden Cow was born and bred on the Elm Hill Farm in Brookfield; the same farm was home to Bathsheba Spooner, the last woman hanged in Massachusetts.

Just about every one of the farms has its own interesting tale.

Today, we salute them not only because of their past, but of the hope they give us for the future of agriculture in Massachusetts - 360 years old and still going strong.

Massachusetts Founding Farms

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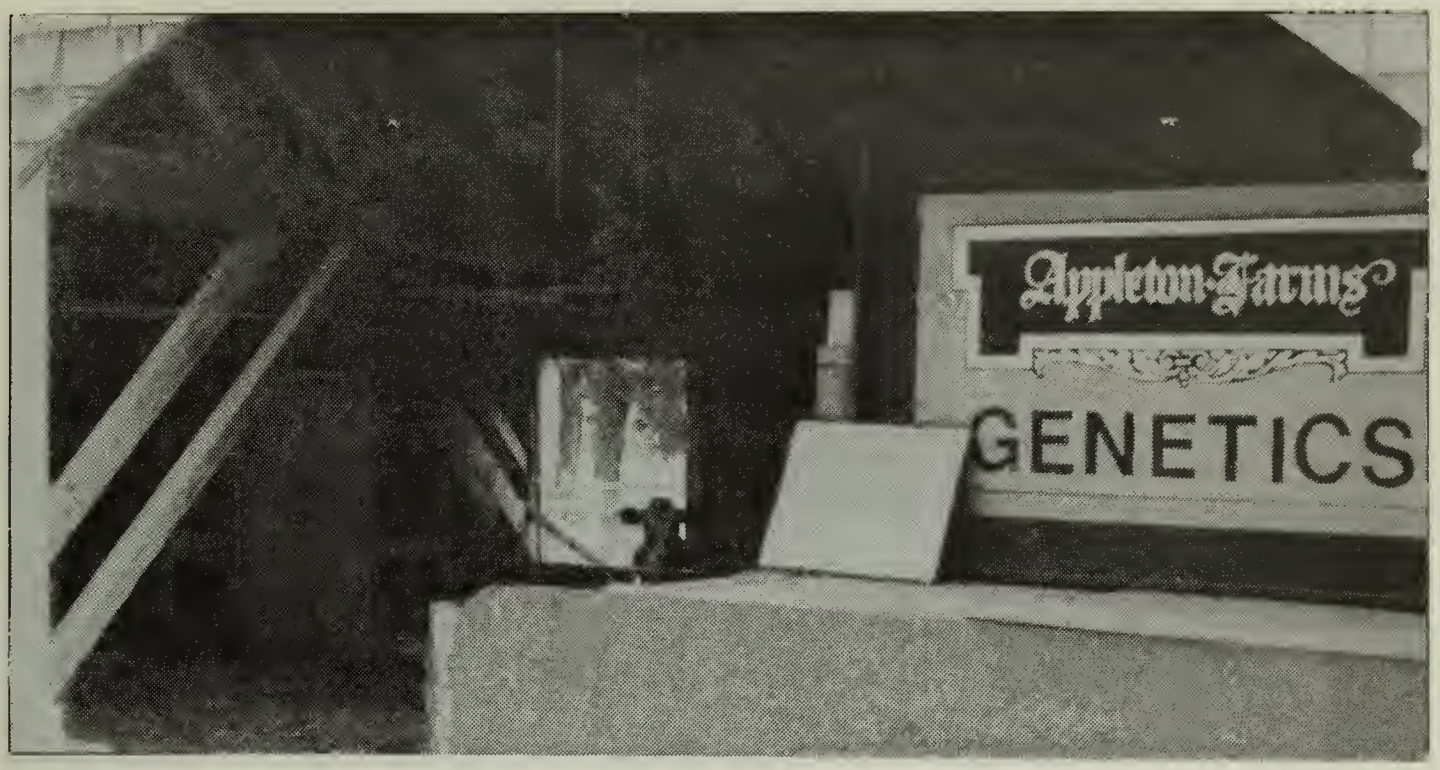


Appleton Farms

Ipswich

Current Information

Owner	Joan Appleton, Francis R. Appleton Jr.
Crops/products	Hay, silage corn, dairy cow embryo transplants, compost
Acreage	1000 acres
Acquired From	

History

Previous owners	Appleton family members
Founder of farm	Samuel Appleton,1638
Original size	1000 acres
crops/products	Silage corn, hay, through the years Kerry, Jersey, Guernsey and Holstein cattle.
Interesting facts	The Appleton farm is the oldest farm in Massachusetts. It is also a forerunner in the innovative areas of embryo transplants and on-farm composting.

Arrowhead Farm

Newburyport

Current Information

Owner	Richard M. Chase and Paula A. Chase
Crops/products	Small fruit, vegetables, sweet corn, bedding plants, tree fruit, and Christmas trees.
Acreage	53 acres
Acquired from	Charlotte M. Chase, mother, 1985

History

Previous owners	John Charles Moulton, John Currier Moulton, John Moulton, Jr., John Moulton, Samuel Moulton.
Founder of farm	William Moulton, 1683
Original size	500 acres
Crops/products	Sheep, dairy cattle, poultry, hay, grain, apples.
Interesting facts	Most of the original farm is now Maudsloy State Park, municipal watershed or protected by Agricultural Preservation Restriction. Four original homes and barns built in 1719, 1789 and 1790 are still on the farm. Justin Chase, son of the current owners is the 10th generation to farm this land.

Arthur Cory Bardwell Farm

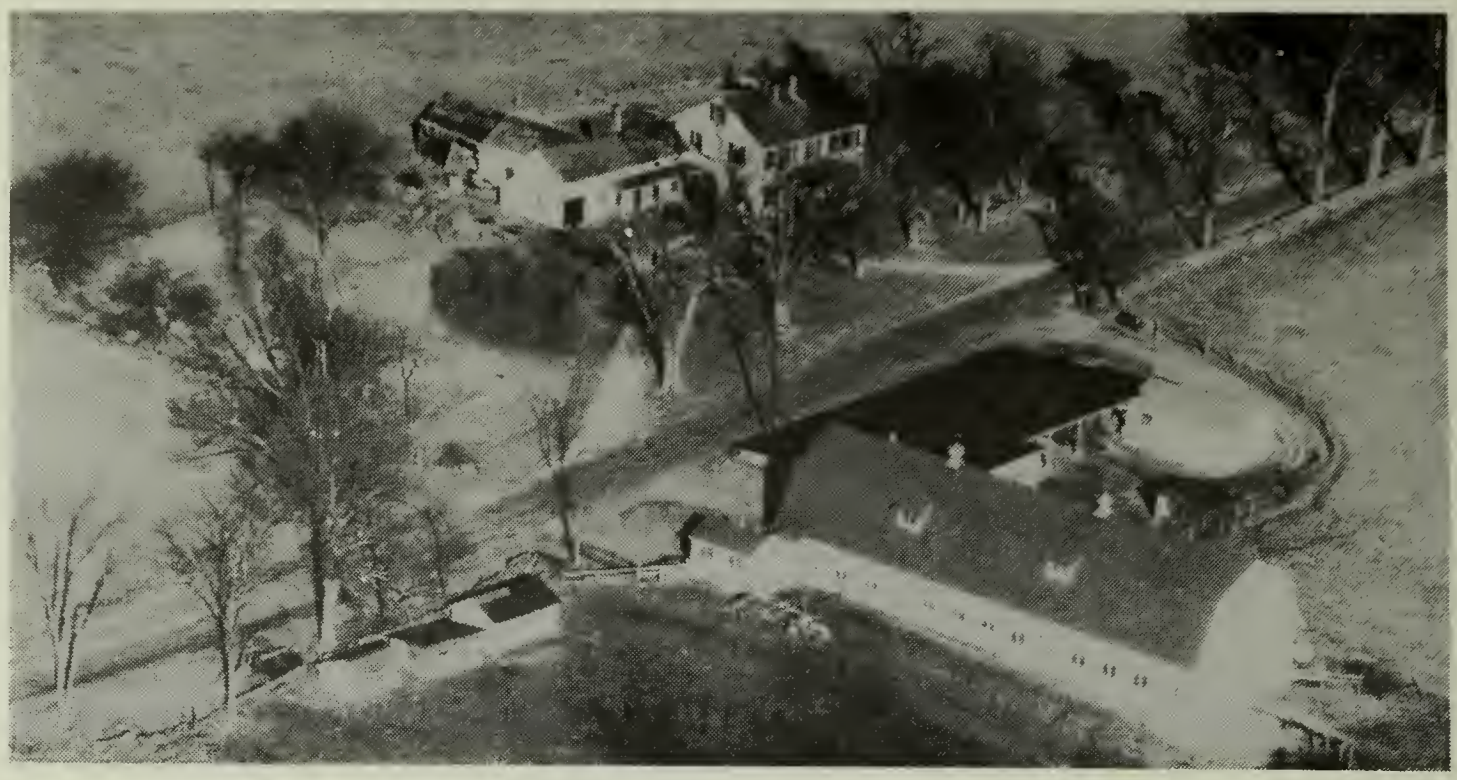
Hatfield

Current Information

Owner	Arthur Cory Bardwell
Crops/Products	Grain corn
Acreage	40 acres
Acquired From	Arthur C. Bardwell, father, 1971

History

Previous owners	Frederich Bardwell, Elijah Bardwell, Elijah Bardwell, Seth Bardwell, Rembrance Bardwell, Ebenezer Bardwell, Robert Bardwell.
Founder of farm	Robert Bardwell, 1683
Original size	unknown
Crops/products	Grains and livestock
Interesting facts	The farm's land changed over the years but all the ancestors farmed in Hatfield. Many acres have been sold or bought before the current owner's time, at one point there were some 100 acres.



Ashland Farm

New Braintree

Current Information

Owner	Herbert Pollard Jr. and Herbert Pollard Sr.
Crops/products	Hay, corn, milk
Acreage	160 acres
Acquired from	Leroy Pollard, Grandfather to Herbert Jr., 1955

History

Previous owners	Leroy Pollard 1928, Harry Dodge Pollard 1900, Herbert Lee Pollard, Moses Pollard, Sampson Pierce, David Nichols (David's daughter married Sampson Pierce), Jacob Nichols.
Founder of farm	Jacob Nichols, 1730
Original size	100 acres
Crops/products	Hay, dairy
Interesting facts	Moses Pollard was President of a cooperative cheese factory- "New Braintree Cheese Factory" in the Civil War era. Leroy, Herb Jr.'s grandfather, left money for the town to build a library. Herbert Lee Pollard was on a committee to deal with surplus milk production in Worcester County. The Pollard family helped form the New Braintree Grange. Jacob Nichols was one of the first settlers in New Braintree where he lived in a log cabin. There have been three houses and two barns on the property over the years. The house that is used today was built in 1812.

Balance Rock Farm

Berlin

Current Information

Owner	Frederick Wheeler Sr. and Frederick Wheeler Jr.
Crops/products	Corn, hay, milk
Acreage	150 acres
Acquired from	Cora Berry, great aunt, 1946

History

Previous owners	Thomas Berry 1839, Mr. Wheeler 1780
Founder of farm	not sure
Original size	12 acres
Crops/products	Horses, cows, apple trees, and hay
Interesting facts	The farm is named for a 35 ton rock that balances on a ledge and can be teetered by hand. This is a town landmark. The first Saturday of August is always the Wheeler Reunion- this year is the 129th.

Barker Farm

North Andover

Current Information

Owner	George R. Barker
Crops/products	Sweet Corn, hay, silage corn, strawberries, small fruit and vegetables, milking herd of Holsteins.
Acreage	150 acres
Acquired from	George R. Barker Sr., father, 1950

History

Previous owners	Barker family members
Founder of farm	Richard Barker, 1642
Original size	unknown
Crops/products	Potatotes, corn, small fruit and vegetables

Bridgemont Farm

Westhampton

Current Information

Owner	Peter and Mary Montague
Crops/Products	Dairy, maple products, wood
Acreage	232 acres
Acquired from	Estate of Edward A. Montague, grandfather of Peter, 1976

History

Previous owners	Edward A. Montague-1923, Alfred D. Montague-1889, Franklin A. Bridgman-1855, Clark Bridgman-1817, Elisha Bridgman-1786.
Founder of farm	Elisha Bridgman, 1786
Original size	200 acres
Crops/products	Dairy and lumber
Interesting facts	According to family history, the farm has always kept dairy cows, sugared and sold wood and lumber. Alfred D. Montague had 12 milking cows to support all his family. The current owners will soon be milking 60 cows to support their immediate family. Alfred and Edward had Guernseys, Edward having a well known registered herd. He changed to registered Holsteins and they now have over 100 head.

Burnett Farm

Conway

Current Information

Owner	Josephine Burnett, son Willis Burnett & daughter Debra (Burnett) Craven
Crops/products	Dairy, maple products, vegetables, strawberries and cordwood.
Acreage	400 acres
Acquired from	Luther F. Burnett, Josephine's father-in-law

History

Previous owners	Donald Burnett, Luther Burnett, Willis Burnett, Lionel Burnett, Daniel Burnett, Archibald Burnett.
Founder of farm	Archibald Burnett, 1781
Original size	55 acres
Crops/products	Sheep and maple products
Interesting facts	The original farmhouse is still standing and all of the children were born and raised in it. To supplement the farm income the early owners did a lot of trapping.

Charbrook Farm

Princeton

Current Information

Owner	Charles Stimson and Joan Stimson
Crops/products	Hay, corn, milk
Acreage	109
Acquired from	Louise Thompson Stimson, mother, 1957

History

Previous owners	Charles and Joan Stimson 1973, William B. Stimson and Louise Thompson Stimson 1957, Charles Frederick Thompson 1912, Charles Hamilton Thompson 1896, Abijah and Jerushua Thompson 1836, Lucius Brigham 1824, Abner Brigham 1821, Stephen Brigham 1810, Abner Brigham 1798, Stephen Brigham 1759, Jedidiah Brigham 1743.
Founder of farm	Jedediah Brigham, 1743
Original size	237 acres
Crops/products	hay,corn silage, and dairy
Interesting facts	The Stimsons four sons Craig, 28, Chris, 28, Steve, 26 and David, 22 represent the 10th generatin on this farm. The farm was used in a photo essay exhibited at the State House and Department of Education in West Boylston. The essay was done by Bruce Robert Dean of Princeton, Massachusetts.

Clark Farm

Danvers

Current Information

Owner	William Clark Jr.
Crops/products	Tomatoes, raspberries, pumpkins, small fruit and vegetables, bedding plants
Acreage	12 acres
Acquired from	Hobart Clark, father

History

Previous owners	Clark family members
Founder of farm	Peter Hobart, 1728
Original size	5 acres
Crops/products	Wholesale vegetables
Interesting facts	This farm represents some of the earliest cultivated land in the area. The original wooden wagon used to go to the market in Boston is on display at the stand. The farm house is in the National Historic Register. William Clark's children Jennifer, Jason, and Joshua represent the 11th generation of Clarks to live in Danvers.

Cobblers Brook Farm

Merrimac

Current Information

Owner	Robert R. and Jane E. Sargent
Crops/Products	Silage corn, hay, compost, Dairy Termination participant.
Acreage	500 + acres
Acquired from	George W. Sargent, great-grandfather, 1964

History

Previous owners	Olive M. Tukesbury
Founder of farm	William Sargent, 1670
Original size	100 acres
Crops/products	Oxen, corn, apple orchard, cider, hay, beef. Became a dairy in 1930.
Interesting facts	The late 1800's logging boom dammed up stream for a mill where they crushed grain. Previous owners cut ice for town, had a water up/down saw, cut timber for Newburyport ship builders.

Colchester Farm

Plympton

Current Information

Owner David B. Barrow

Crops/products Broccoli, green beans, wax beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, lettuce, peas, peppers, tomatoes, summer and winter squash, cabbage.

Acreage 40 acres

Acquired from Helen (Choate) Barrow, mother, 1946

History

Previous owners Alice (Churchill) Choate (grandmother), Thomas Churchill, Oliver Churchill, Oliver Churchill, Isaac Churchill.

Founder of farm Isaac Churchill, 1761

Original size 70 acres

Crops/products Hay, beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry, hogs, and firewood

Interesting facts Thomas Churchill was an officer in the Union Navy, his brother James was an officer in the Union Army. When both returned from the Civil War, they found that the farm could not support both families. The manner in which they settled the dilemma is documented by a carved incription on a beam in the attic of the homestead: "On the toss of a coin, 1866, James Churchill left for the West."

Cold Springs Farm

Salisbury

Current Information

Owner	Robert M. Bartlett and three children
Crops/products	Sweet corn, mixed vegetables, silage corn, hay, strawberries, cattle
Acreage	800 acres
Acquired from	Edmond M. Bartlett/Morrill family, father, 1976

History

Previous owners	Walter Morrill-1897, Roby Morrill-1850, Samuel Morril-1793, Abel Morrill-1772, Abraham Morrill, Reuben Morrill-1730, Isaac Morrill-1700
Founder of farm	John Gill 1660
Original size	20 acres
Crops/products	cattle, corn, mixed vegetables
Interesting facts	In 1897 the farm was cited at a town meeting for being in the same family for over 200 years.

Crawford-Bigelow Farm

North Brookfield

Current Information

Owner	George Crawford
Crops/products	Raising Holstein heifers, hay, corn
Acreage	106 acres
Acquired from	Lillian Crawford, mother, 1983

History

Previous owners	Lillian Crawford 1930, Martin L. Crawford Sr. 1912, Jason Bigelow
Founder of farm	Silas Bigelow, 1736
Original size	106 acres
Crops/products	Dairy, milk, hay, corn
Interesting facts	Ancestors were involved in Shays Rebellion.

Double BBR Farm

Hatfield

Current Information

Owner	John Rankin
Crops/Products	Corn and vegetables
Acreage	7 acres
Acquired from	Gladys J. Belden, mother-in-law, 1964

History

Previous owners	Gladys J. Belden, Sarah Billings, Samuel Billings
Founder of farm	Samuel Billings, 1753
Original size	unknown
Crops/products	Corn, hay, broom corn, and vegetables
Interesting facts	Samuel Billings and his brother Lou A. Billings were among the larger growers of tobacco (circa 1904). The following is taken from Weil's History of Hatfield, page 295: "The house on the John and Isaac Graves allotment was built in 1856 by John A. Billings who purchased the lot from Samuel D. Partridge and tore down the old house. It was later owned and occupied by Samuel T. Billings who married Sarah Jenney, daughter of William and Sarah Langdon. A large stone was set in front of the place in 1906 by the descendants of Thomas Graves. The 'JennyLind' elm was standing in front of it. The old brick schoolhouse in front of this place was torn down in 1846."

Elm Hill Farm

Brookfield

Current Information

Owner	John Spencer
Crops/Products	Dairy, Holsteins
Acreage	1200 acres
Acquired from	Louise C. Means, aunt, 1983

History

Previous owners	Blanchard Means, Spooner-1780
Founder of farm	Blanchard, 1780
Original size	40 acres
Crops/products	Subsistance farming
Interesting facts	Early owner Joshua Spooner's wife, Bathsheba, unhappy in her marriage, entertained two young men in the Spooner Inn. Joshua, returning from the Revolution, tried to throw the men out. They, in turn, threw Joshua down the farm's well. Joshua had Bethsheba hanged in 1778 in Worcester. Before the hanging, Bathsheba protested, "You can't hang me because you are taking two lives for the price of one." A midwife examined Bathsheba and proclaimed her not pregnant. After the hanging, the truth emerged: that Bathsheba was indeed carrying a child. She was the last woman hanged in Massachusetts.

"Elsie" The Borden Cow was born and bred on the farm and picked by Borden during the 1938 World's Fair.

Elm View Farm

Warren

Current Information

Owner	Charles Shepard
Crops/products	Dairy farming, milk
Acreage	270 acres
Acquired from	Herbert and Grace Shepard, father and mother

History

Previous owners	Herbert and Grace Shepard
Founder of farm	Unknown, 1715
Crops/products	Dairy, lumber
Interesting facts	Four generations on farm at this time: Charles, David, David W, and Benjamin

Gibraltar Farms

Chester

Current Information

Owner	Robert and Grace Oppenheimer
Crops/products	Commercial vegetable garden & hay
Acreage	50 acres
Acquired from	Purchased from Charles Zadoc Ingell, great-uncle, 1940

History

Previous owners	Charles Zadoc Ingell, Zadoc and Anne Ingell, Noreds Elder, Samuel Elder
Founder of farm	Samuel Elder, 1762
Original size	100 acres
Crops/products	Sheep, cattle, oxen, horses
Interesting facts	Samuel Elder came two years prior to the division and sale of Township 9 (Murrayfield). He had already erected a small dwelling. At the time of the drawing of lots he and 13 others were allowed to keep what they had cleared and built on.

Griswold Farm

Greenfield

Current Information

Owner	L. William Griswold
Crops/products	Vineyard & hay
Acreage	60 acres
Acquired from	Lyman Griswold, father, 1944

History

Previous owners	Lyman W. Griswold, John Flavel - Theophilus' brother-in-law, Theophilus Lyman Griswold, Lyman Griswold, Theophilus Griswold
Founder of farm	Theophilus Griswold, 1783
Original size	125 acres
Crops/products	Sheep, dairy & orchard
Interesting facts	The Griswold farm produced lampblack, thus giving the name Lampblack District to this section of Greenfield. Lyman was a shoe maker in Factory Hollow as well as a farmer, and Lyman W. was a lawyer, judge and State Representative. In 1973 the Griswold Farm gave 75 acres of land to the Greenfield Conservation District in memory of Lyman W. Griswold. It is a wildlife refuge, but the farm retains all of the wood rights to the land.

Gunn Farm Inc.

Sunderland

Current Information

Owner	Stephen Gunn
Crops/products	Dairy, maple products, hay, corn and timber
Acreage	300 acres
Acquired From	Charles, father, 1979

History

Previous owners	Charles Gunn, Carlton Gunn, Charles Isaac Gunn, Isaac Stephen Hatch, Stephen Gunn II, Stephen Gunn I.
Founder of farm	Noah Baker, 1745
Original size	unknown
Crops/products	Self-sufficient homestead
Interesting facts	The Gunns are original settlers of the town of Sunderland. There was also a cider mill on the farm at one time.

Hancock Shaker Village

Pittsfield

Current Information

Owner	Hancock Shaker Village Inc.
Crops/products	Wool, freezer lambs, hay, corn, timber, firewood.
Acreage	1000 acres
Acquired from	United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Coming, 1960

History

Previous owners	Goodrich Family, Deming Family
Founder of farm	Goodrich and Deming Families
Original size	Increased to approximately 3000 acres mid 19th Century.
Crops/products	Dairy products, sheep, vegetable seeds, poultry, eggs, pork, lumber.
Interesting facts	Hancock Shaker Village is known for its Round Stone Barn, built in 1826. This Round Stone Barn was famous for its desgin and efficient operation. It was perhaps the first commercial-scale single purpose barn in western Massachusetts with stalls for 60 cows, at a time when the average Berkshire County Farm had 6 cows. The Shakers were the largest seed merchants in the U.S. for the first half of the 19th century. The Shakers invented the concept of putting small quantities of vegetable seed in paper envelopes in retail establishments, the forerunner of our current "point of purchase" system.

Highloft Farm

Worcester

Current Information

Owner	William and Helen King
Crops/products	Corn, hay, sheep, pigs, hens, eggs, goats
Acreage	235 acres
Acquired from	King Estate, relatives, 1947

History

Previous owners	unknown
Founder of farm	Grant from King George, 1716
Crops/products	Dairy and sheep
Interesting facts	Today the Kings sell blankets and sheepskins retail to visitors to their farm.. The remainder of their products are sold wholesale.

Kelso Homestead Farm

Chester

Current Information

Owner	Harriet and James Gilman
Crops/products	Blueberries, lumber
Acreage	10 acres blueberries, 225 acres total
Acquired from	Elizabeth Kelso, mother of Harriet, 1974

History

Previous owners	Elizabeth Kelso (mother of Harriet) 1961-1974, Leon Kelso (father of Harriet) 1927-1961, John Kelso 1875-1927, Joseph Kelso 1850-1875, James Kelso 1814-1850, Captain John Kelso 1779-1814.
Founder of farm	Captain John Kelso, 1779
Original size	100 acres
Crops/products	Sheep, cows, pigs, chickens, potatoes, apples, maple syrup, peaches
Interesting facts	At time of purchase by Captain John Kelso it had been used as a stage stop for Boston to Albany stage coaches.

Luther Belden, Inc.

North Hatfield

Current Information

Owner	Gordon and Darryl Williams
Crops/products	Dairy, silage corn, hay, and strawberries
Acreage	175 acres
Acquired from	Luther A. Belden, father-in-law, 1966

History

Previous owners	Luther Belden-1947, Clifford and Luther Belden-1932, Oscar Belden and Sons-1890, Oscar Belden-1870, Sanford Belden-1840, Samuel Belden-1825, Joseph Belden-1755, Joseph Belden-1726, John Belden-1700, Samuel Belden-1661.
Founder of farm	Samuel Belden, 1661
Original size	20 acres
Crops/products	Sheep

Mayval Farm

Westhampton

Current Information

Owner	Mahlon K. Parsons and Sons
Crops/products	Dairy, silage corn, hay and maple syrup.
Acreage	520 acres
Acquired from	Henry M. Parsons II, father, 1971

History

Previous owners	Henry M. Parsons II-1943, Mahlon Parsons-1910, Henry M. Parsons and Aaron Parsons, Asa Parsons, Noah Parsons III-1778.
Founder of farm	Noah Parsons III, 1778
Original size	150 acres
Crops/products	The original Parsons' farm was a diversified family operation similar to many at that time that allowed colonial families to be self supporting. Livestock included oxen, a cow or two, a few sheep and pigs, and some chickens. Crops consisted of vegetables from the garden, a limited acreage of grains, and a small number of fruit trees.
Interesting facts	Sons Henry M. Parsons III and Edward A. Parsons are employed on the farm.

Meadow View Farm

Colrain

Current Information

Owner	Earl and Ola Smead and daughter Betty Smead
Crops/products	Dairy, hay and corn silage
Acreage	128 acres
Acquired from	Earl Dwight Smead, Earl's father, 1914

History

Previous Owners	Earl Dwight Smead-1900's, Dwight Emerson Smead-1800's, Charles Smead-1770.
Founder of farm	Charles Smead, 1770
Original size	not sure
Crop/products	Dairy
Interesting facts	The farmhouse used to be called the Stebbin's Tavern. In 1914 lightning hit the barn and Earl Dwight Smead was killed in the fire that destroyed the barn.

Mt. Toby Farm

Sunderland

Current Information

Owner	James and Agnes Williams and son, Robert and Barbara Williams
Crops/products	Dairy, hay & corn silage
Acreage	114 acres
Acquired from	Kathleen I. Williams, grandmother of James, 1950

History

Previous owner	Walter Williams, Frank Williams, Franklin Williams, Oliver Williams Jr., Oliver Williams Sr.
Founder of farm	Oliver Williams Sr., 1775
Original size	75 acres
Crops/products	A variety of crops, from vegetables for sale to the towns people to forage crops. They operated a dairy as a sideline business.
Interesting facts	The original house also served as the local tavern in Sunderland. The Williams' were some of the first settlers if the town. The farm also produced tobacco at one time.

Nourse Farm

Westborough

Current Information

Owner	Arthur and Jonathan Nourse
Crops/products	Strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, sheep, pig, hay, wood, vegetables
Acreage	160 acres
Acquired from	Arthur M. Nourse, father, 1957

History

Previous owners	Arthur Mariam Norse, Benjamin Alden, Joseph Jolin
Founder of farm	Ebenezer and William Nourse, 1722
Original size	Three lots 60 acres and a meadow each
Crops/products	Subsistance farming/cattle to support and barter
Interesting facts	In 1754 farmers of the three house lot petitioned to divide land into town of Westboro. At that time the Nourse Brothers and one other owner went to Westboro, while remaining lot stayed in Shrewsbury. Fifteen to twenty years later that farmer joined them in Westboro. There is a big rock on farm with a spring near by. The Nourse brothers from Framingham built a lean-to and lived in that for some time until they could afford to build something better.

Phelps Farm

Hadley

Current Information

Owner	Mrs. Doheny Sessions
Crops/products	Sheep, Arabian-Welsh ponies
Acreage	265 acres
Acquired from	John A. Sessions, husband, 1927

History

Previous owners	Mrs. Ruth G.H. Sessions, Phelps Family (sons and daughter of C.P. Phelps), Charles Porter Phelps, Charles Phelps, Moses Porter.
Founder of farm	Moses Porter, 1751
Original size	unknown
Crops/products	livestock

Pilot Grove Farm

Stow

Current Information

Owner	Francis Warren
Crops/Products	Hay, wool, lamb
Acreage	76 acres
Acquired from	Henry Warren, father, 1957

History

Previous owners	Abijah Warren-1782, Jonas Warren-1823, Francis Warren-1850, Henry Warren,1894
Founder of farm	Thomas Stevens, 1681
Original size	100 acres
Crops/products	Oxen, cows, sheep, hogs, potatoes, rye, hay, and apple orchard.
Interesting facts	Abijah's main occupation was a tanner, but he farmed the land well. He brought water from the hill to the farm in wooden logs. Abijah Warren built the present "homestead" in 1808. Forestry has always been a part of farm operations. Pilot Grove Hill was covered with tall white pines that ships' captains and pilots used as a landmark when bringing ships into Boston Harbor. Jonas son Francis continued the apples, peaches, field crops, and dairy. By 1894 the farm continued to expand by adding a variety of vegetables and setting out a new MacIntosh orchard with peaches interplanted. The 1938 hurricane ended the apple orchard and the farm expanded in the dairy business.

Ridgeview Farm

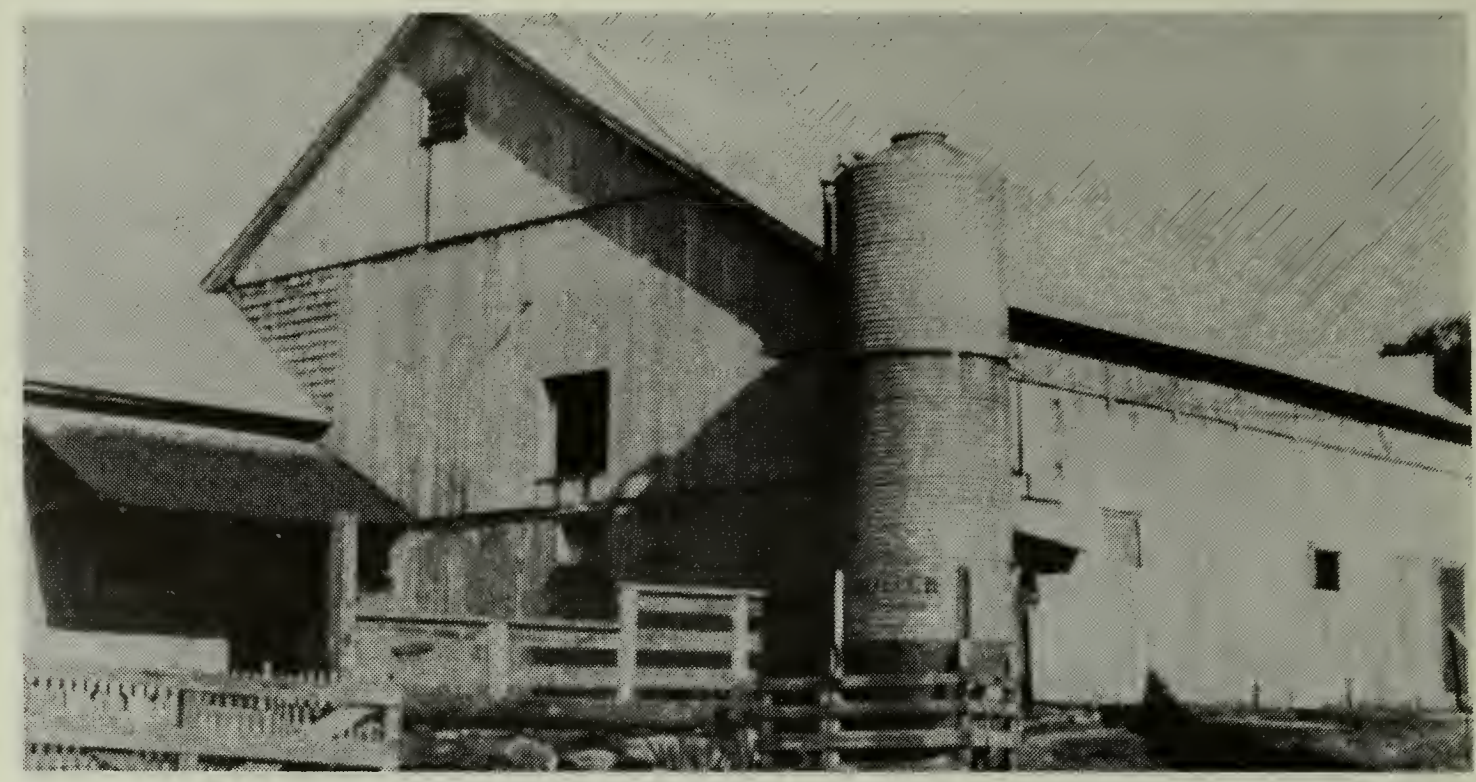
Williamstown

Current Information

Owner	Jeffrey Moses Young
Crops/products	Hay
Acreage	88 acres
Acquired from	Quentin Phelps Young, father, 1987

History

Previous owners	Quentin Phelps Young 1948, E. Bliss Young, Frank Young, Erastus Bliss, James Young
Founder of farm	Moses Young, land grant 1765
Original size	100 acres
Crops/products	Cleared the land, made butter, raised horses
Interesting facts	In 1718 the Young family brought Irish potatoes from Ireland. The potato came first from Central America, later was taken to Europe then it eventually spread to Ireland. It was then brought to New England for the first time. The Young Family also brought the loom for making linen.



Scott Farm

Charlemont

Current Information

Owner	Ellene A. Scott and son Raymond Scott
Crops/products	Maple products, hay and youngstock
Acreage	110 acres
Acquired from	David Scott, Ellene's Husband, 1986

History

Previous owners	David Scott, Wilbur Scott, Thaxter Scott, Luther Scott, Phinehas Scott
Founder of farm	King's Grant to Phinehas' father, 1600's
Original size	110 acres
Crops/products	Eggs, butter, maple products, and seed potatoes. The cream from the purebred Ayshire cattle was sold to the Ashfield Creamery.
Interesting facts	The town of Hawley was originally called Plantation Number 7 of the Hatfield Equivalent. This is when Phinehas Scott's Father received a King's Grant of land in the 1600's. Phinehas was one of the original settlers of Hawley.

Silvermine Farm

Sutton

Current Information

Owner	Jeffrey Cole
Crops/products	Tomatoes, corn, cucmbers, beets, carrots, onions, hot peppers, squash, strawberries, raspberries
Acreage	64 acres
Acquired from	Robert and Margaret Cole, Parents, 1986

History

Previous owners	Jeffrey Cole 1986, Margaret Cole 1984, Wilfred Lewis Stockwell 1960, George Lewis Stockwell 1912, George Kiron Stockwell, George Frank Stockwell, Enoch Stockwell 1806, Steven Stockwell, Jonathan Stockwell 1727.
Founder of farm	John Stockwell, 1727
Original size	40 Acres
Crops/products	Dairy farm, hay, apples, pears
Interesting facts	There was a silver mine on the land and conflicting stories about whether it actually produced any silver. One story says that two sisters dug it and didn't find any silver. They were later institutinalized. The other story claims that silver was found but not in sufficient amount or quality to continue mining.

Stone Farm

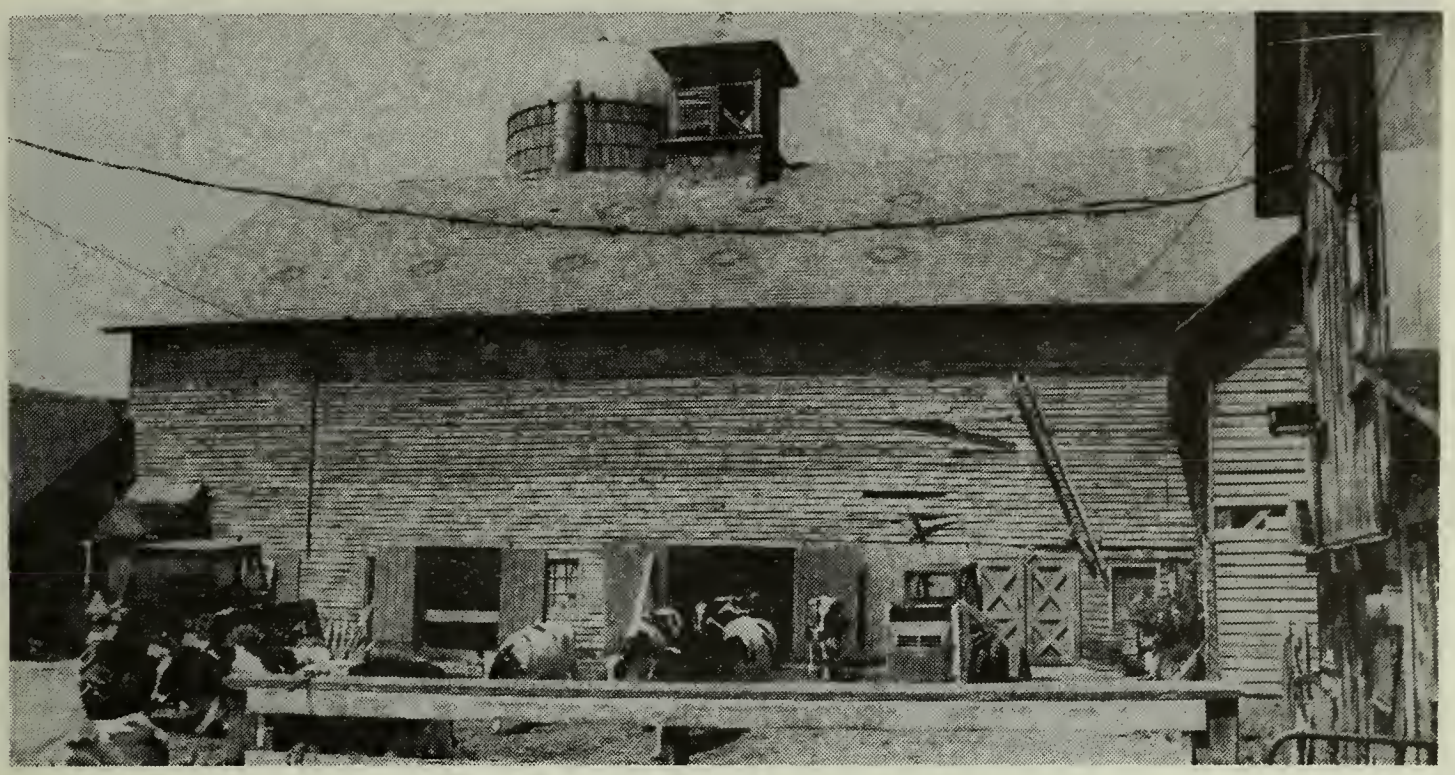
Oakham

Current Information

Owner	Henry W. Stone Jr. and Josephine F. Stone
Crops/products	Hay, Jersey cows, milk
Acreage	202 acres
Acquired from	George and Fred Stone, brothers, 1952

History

Previous owners	Henry Stone, George W. Stone and John Stone-Civil War
Founder of farm	Possibly Captain Isacc Stone of Lexington,MA, 1765
Original size	140 acres
Crops/products	Dairy, hay, firewood, vegetables, self sufficient.
Interesting facts	The first deed in Oakham was purchased by Captain Issac Stone. George Washington Stone, a civil war veteran, was president of the soldiers union and a Representative to the State Legislature, 1901 to 1927. He also helped to build a library.



Sunsett Farm

Tyringham

Current Information

Owner	Donald and Alice Hale
Crops/products	Maple syrup, hay, corn, milk, and beef
Acreage	350 acres
Acquired from	Arnold Hale, father, 1987

History

Previous owners	Donald and Alice Hale, Arnold and Willie Hale, Clarence Hale, George Hale & John Hale, William Hale & Thomas Hale, Land Grant of 1736 to Thomas Hale.
Founder of farm	Thomas Hale, 1736
Original size	145 acres
Crops/products	Tobacco, flax, sheep, cattle, and maple syrup
Interesting facts	Family farm, since Thomas Hale all family members have been involved in town political affairs. The family also made shoes in early times.

Third Century Farmstead

Sutton

Current Information

Owner	David T. Putnam
Crops/products	Corn, hay, lumber-sawmill
Acreage	100 acres
Acquired from	David and his father bought out father's two sisters, 1942. David acquired the farm from his father in 1956.

History

Previous owners	David Oscar Putnam, Grandfather 1893, John Putnam, another John Putnam
Founder of farm	Cornelius Putnam, 1724
Original size	56 acres
Crops/products	vegetable and fruit farming

Warner Farm

Haydenville

Current Information

Owner Cora Warner, operated by Henry, Douglas and Marion Warner
Crops/Products Dairy with registered and grade Holsteins, hay and silage corn.
Acreage unknown
Acquired from Harry Warner, father, 1962

History

Previous owners Harry Warner-1920, Charles Warner-1880, Silas Warner, Job Warner, Captain Jonathan Warner-1771.
Founder of farm Captain Jonathan Warner, 1771
Original size 640 acres
Crops/Products Hay and livestock

Wolf Hill Farm

Southampton

Current Information

Owner	Myron Searle
Crops/Products	Dairy, hay and grain silage.
Acreage	300 acres
Acquired from	Edward C. Searle, father, 1952

History

Previous owners	Edward Cornelius Searle-1910, Orlando Cornelius Searle-1886, Cornelius Edward Searle-1832, Cornelius Searle-1817, Zophar Searle-1764.
Founder of farm	Zophar Searle, 1764
Original size	40 acres
Crops/products	Dairy
Interesting facts	Farm was deeded to Myron and Edward C. Jr. but operated by father until mid 1960's. Operated soley by Myron since 1966. Myron has two more generations living on the premises - a daughter and son-in-law with two children, Jim and Marianne Henry, Steven Henry and Sarah Henry.

Woodslawn Farm

Colrain

Current Information

Owner	Herbert & Barbara Purington & son Robert & Joyce Purington
Crops/products	Dairy, hay, and corn silage
Acreage	315 acres
Acquired from	George Purington, Herbert's father, 1953

History

Previous owners	George Purington, Orrin Purington, George R. Purington, Thomas Purington, David Purington, Joseph Purington.
Founder of farm	Joseph Purington, 1784
Original size	250 acres
Crops/products	Self-sufficient homestead. Raised fruit, sheep & horses
Interesting facts	The family used many of the surplus products of the farm to barter for non-farm items the family needed. Orrin Purington married George Purington's sister Marion and inherited the farm.

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